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E.O. 12958: DECL: 09/16/2016 TAGS: <u>KNNP MNUC PARM PREL AORC</u>

SUBJECT: MOROCCO - EXPANDING THE CHORUS ON IRAN

REF: A. SECSTATE 95073

¶B. RABAT 289

Classified By: PolCouns Gregory Thome, Reasons 1.4 (b,d).

(C) PolCouns delivered Reftel A demarche Sept. 17 to Moroccan MFA Director for Middle East Affairs Mohammed Azaroual. Azaroual restated emphatically that Morocco's positions remain clear: There should be no nuclear weapons in the region; the international community must remain united in its opposition to Iran's efforts to obtain them; and Iran must fulfill its obligations to the IAEA and permit full inspections. This said, he admitted that the GOM's ability to put effective bilateral pressure on Iran has been limited, especially since it officially severed diplomatic relations with Tehran in March (Reftel B). However, Morocco will seek ways of making its position known to the Iranians at the UNGA and elsewhere, and it will continue to advocate strongly among its Arab allies who are already part of the chorus.

Millard